

SIXTY YEARS AGO THIS NOVEMBER, four individuals founded The HSUS, with grand ambitions but only a few nickels in their pockets. They resolved to create an organization that would professionalize the field of animal protection and confront national cruelties beyond the reach of local societies.

Somehow they scraped together enough dollars to sustain an organization aligned with their vision and committed to helping all animals. Their first campaigns helped pass a federal humane slaughter law and restrict the seizure of pets from shelters for use in animal experiments.

If they could see us today, I think they'd be very pleased that The HSUS, more than any other organization, has framed the debate about animal protection in society. They could never have anticipated the range and reach of our work in 2014, as you'll see in this issue of *All Animals*.

With nearly 1,000 staff members and consultants, and millions of volunteers and other supporters, we're confronting the biggest forms of cruelty, no matter how maligned or disregarded the animal or how entrenched the abuse.

Three decades ago, just four U.S. states had felony penalties for malicious animal cruelty and only a dozen made dogfighting a felony—with a half dozen states actually allowing legal cockfighting. Today, malicious animal cruelty and dogfighting are felonies in all 50 states, and cockfighting is banned in all states. It's a federal felony to engage in animal fighting or to sell videos depicting animal cruelty.

A decade ago, most veal calves, pregnant pigs and egg-laying hens were confined in crates and cages so small that the animals couldn't turn around. Since then, we've pushed the veal industry to completely phase out veal crates (by 2017) and gained wide acceptance from leaders in the egg industry that they must abandon barren battery cages. Several big pork producers are phasing out gestation crates, and more than 60 major food retailers—from McDonald's to Costco to Safeway—have committed to stop buying from factory farms that confine the animals so severely.

The European Union forbids selling any cosmetics products tested on animals. The U.S. government is moving nearly all the chimpanzees it owns from laboratories to sanctuaries and has stopped funding research that involves dogs and cats acquired from "random source" dealers.

Only three nations in the world continue to conduct commercial whaling. We've reduced Canada's seal slaughter by 75 percent and restricted the sale of tuna that is not dolphin-safe.

We are heartened by this progress but mindful of the immense challenges ahead. Here's what we see in the years to come:

- ◆ Ending euthanasia of healthy animals in shelters
- ◆ Halting animal testing for cosmetics and product safety in all industrialized nations
- ◆ Moving a billion animals out of the most extreme factory farm conditions and into higher animal welfare standards, while reducing the number of animals raised and slaughtered by a billion or more
- ◆ Ushering in a new era of wildlife management, solving conflicts by humane means and ending use of steel-jawed leghold traps, bear baiting and hounding, and other unacceptable methods
- ◆ Working to pass anti-cruelty statutes throughout the world

And, of course, we'll continue fighting to stop the slaughter and soring of American horses, end the killing of dogs for their meat in Southeast Asia, restrict the private ownership of wild animals, stop the trade in ivory and rhino horn, end shark finning, phase out the use of toxic lead ammunition in hunting, rescue animals in need and do so much more.

More than anything, animals need a powerful, strategic organization that can provide immediate relief and rescue, as well as shape opinion and drive corporate and public policies. That's what you have in The HSUS. But as we take our movement to the next level of success, we need your active support and participation more than ever. Let's look back with pride on the past 60 years but unite to drive even more meaningful reform in the months and years ahead.



Wayne Pacelle with his adopted dog, Lily.

Wayne Pacelle

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